Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing energy usage at an end user site comprising the steps of:

determining a cost for generating energy at the end user site;

determining the cost of purchasing energy from another energy supplier;

establishing a set of end-user energy policies for generating and using energy at the end-user facility; and

generating a set of energy supply alternatives based on the energy user requirements and the cost of the energy alternatives;

selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies;

generating energy at the end-user facility, and using said generated energy as desired by the end-user; and

selling any excess generated energy to other end-users or to energy suppliers by placing information about available energy in a location accessible to potential energy purchasers; negotiating the price and quantity of the energy with a potential energy purchaser; and consummating the transaction with the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Original) The method as described in claim 9 wherein said end-user energy policy is based on the lowest energy cost and the closest available time to a preferred time of the user.

Claim 11 (Original) The method as described in claim 9 further comprising after said selection step, steps for implementing a pre-programmed operation of the particular appliance or application using energy from the selected energy option.

Claim 12 (Original) The method as described in claim 11 wherein said implementing steps are automatically performed.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 8 14 wherein said negotiating step comprises: receiving an offer from a potential purchaser to buy energy, said offer containing a desired energy quantity and purchase price; determining whether to accept the offer, reject the offer or to submit a counter offer to the potential purchaser; and submitting a response to the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 8 9 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user the steps of: submitting an offer to purchase energy to the selected energy supplier; receiving a response to the energy purchase offer from the selected energy supplier; and consummating the transaction with the energy purchaser.

Claim 17 (Canceled)
Claim 18 (Canceled)
Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for optimizing energy usage at an end user site comprising:

indent instructions for determining a cost for generating energy at the end user site;

indent instructions for determining the cost of purchasing energy from another energy supplier;

indent instructions for establishing a schedule for generating and using energy at the user end; ~~and~~

indent instructions for generating a set of energy supply alternatives based on the energy user requirements and the cost of the energy alternatives;

indent instructions for selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies;

indent instructions for generating energy at the end-user site; using said generated energy as desired by the end-user; and

indent instructions for selling any excess generated energy to other end-users or to energy suppliers, said selling excess generated energy instructions further comprising instructions for placing information about available energy in a location accessible to potential energy purchasers; instructions for negotiating the price and quantity of the energy with a potential energy purchaser; and instructions for consummating the transaction with the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 24 2̶5̶ further comprising after said selecting instructions, instructions for implementing a pre-programmed operation of the particular appliance or application using energy from the selected energy option.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 24 2̶8̶ wherein said energy negotiating instructions comprise instructions for:

receiving an offer from a potential purchaser to buy energy, said offer containing a desired energy quantity and purchase price;

determining whether to accept the offer, reject the offer or to submit a counter offer to the potential purchaser; and

submitting a response to the potential energy purchaser.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim 24 2̶5̶ further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user:

instructions for submitting an offer to purchase energy to the selected energy supplier;

instructions for receiving a response to the energy purchase offer from the selected energy supplier; and

instructions for consummating the transaction with the energy purchaser.